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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,707	06/27/2003	Joseph Jacob Zukowski	MICR0424	7921

45809 7590 05/14/2007

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EXAMINER	
BONSHOCK, DENNIS G	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2173	
MAIL DATE	**DELIVERY MODE**
05/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/607,707	ZUKOWSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dennis G. Bonshock	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 March 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-13,15-26,29 and 30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 3-13, 15-26, 29, and 30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Final Rejection

Response to Amendment

1. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed on record in the file: Amendment as received on 3-14-2007.

2. Claims 1-30 have been examined.

Status of Claims:

3. Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr and Zawadzki et al., Patent No.: 7,107,268, hereinafter Zawadzki.

4. Claims 23-26, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr et al, Pub. No.: US 2004/0010513 A1, hereinafter Scherr.

5. Claims 2, 14, 27, and 28 have been cancelled by the Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 23-26, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr et al, Pub. No.: US 2004/0010513 A1, hereinafter Scherr.

8. With regard to claim 23, which teaches for user on a computing device having a display on which a graphical user interface is provided, a method executed by a software program, for displaying an integrated project environment in which components related to a project are organized and accessible, comprising the steps of: displaying a plurality of to do items in a list, within the integrated project environment, said plurality of to do items being provided by at least one of: a user input; and the software program; Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 23, which further teaches displaying indications of entities associated by the user with the items in the to do list, within the integrated project environment, each entity comprising one of a template of the software, program, a document, and a Web link relevant to the items in the to do list with which the entity is associated, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like) with select Areas of Concern. Scherr further teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like. With regard to claim 23, which further teaches enabling a user to select and access the entity associated with a to do item from within the

integrated project environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

9. With regard to claim 23, which further teaches the step of searching and displaying a search result, in the integrated project environment, said search result indicating entities that may be pertinent to a currently selected item in the to do list, to enable the user to select an entity for association with the currently selected item, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a file system search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt), where contents of the file system (search results) are overlaid onto the contents of the concern cascade, and further being savable to a particular concern.

10. With regard to claim 23, which further teaches the search being performed automatically and is a natural word query based on the currently selected item in the to do list, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the system implementing a "file system search", which obviously could comprise a natural word query, of documents. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because language searching is a frequently used search means, in a file system, that would enable documents with like words to be provided for inspection and further application to the list.

11. With regard to claim 24, which teaches further comprising the step of enabling the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment which the user subsequently again selects said to do items in the list with which the note is associated, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 17, and 23-25 and in figure 1, associating a note with an

Area of Concern, where the notes are displayed simultaneously with the Area of Concern.

12. With regard to claim 25, which teaches further comprising the step of enabling the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25, 31, and 45, along with figure 6, associating a date with and Area of Concern.

13. With regard to claim 26, which teaches further comprising the step of automatically scheduling the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25 and 45, and in figures 1 and 6, a calendar program that provides the user with reminders of events.

14. With regard to claim 29, which teaches the search result includes entities provided by different application programs that are accessible by the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, the system implementing the searching of different types of documents including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.

15. With regard to claim 30, which teaches a memory storing machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 23, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

16. Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherr and Zawadzki et al., Patent No.: 7,107,268, hereinafter Zawadzki.

17. With regard to claim 1, which teaches a method for enabling a user to organize a project, comprising the steps of: displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment; creating a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 1, further teaching enabling the user to associate an entity with a selected item in the list of to do items; and enabling a user to access said entity that is thus associated with the selected items, from within the integral user environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like), with select AoC, and further enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

With regard to claim 1, which further teaches wherein enabling the user to associate the entity comprises: displaying a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select, within the integral user environment; in response to the user selecting one of the categories, displaying alternative choices of entities from which the

user can select for association with a to do item in the list; and in response to one of the plurality of alternative choices being selected, providing an indication that said one of the plurality of alternative choices is associated with the to do item in the list, Scherr teaches associating elements from varying categories (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, etc.) with concerns in a list of concerns, and providing a visual links to the documents via the UI (see paragraphs 35 and 42), but doesn't specifically teach displaying a plurality of categories of entities for association with items in the list.

Zawadzki teaches a project tracker screen where items are selectively placed in a to do list (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 23 and figure 16), similar to that of Scherr, but further teaches providing a user with groups of categorized items (figure 16) that allow a user to associate and display each item with a project folder (ordered to-do list) (figure 17), where under each category (Tasks, Requisitions, RFQ, Pos) the user is provided with alternative choices of assignable entities ("Hire a Tech Writer", etc.) (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 36 and column 34, lines 1-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Scherr and Zawadzki before him at the time the invention was made to modify the project management system of Scherr to provide for a display of a plurality of categories of linkable elements, as did Zawadzki. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because Scherr describes varying categories of linked documents, where an interface to link by type would be desirable, furthermore this would provide a more organized saving of documents to associated concerns (see Scherr paragraph 42).

18. With regard to claim 3, which teaches the plurality of categories include at least two of: a Web link; a test; and a document, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.

19. With regard to claim 4, which teaches the step of automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt).

20. With regard to claim 5, which teaches further comprising the step of providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the user being able to link any document by saving it to a corresponding concern.

21. With regard to claim 6, which teaches further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents, where it would be obvious to link to blank entities. On would be motivated to do so because a blank document is just an empty document (empty word processing document).

22. With regard to claims 7 and 19, which teach further comprising the step of enabling the user to enter a note in association with a currently selected to do item in the list, so that the note is displayed within the integral user environment which the user subsequently again selects said to do items in the list with which the note is associated,

Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 17, and 23-25 and in figure 1, associating a note with an Area of Concern, where the notes are displayed simultaneously with the Area of Concern.

23. With regard to claims 8 and 20, which teach further comprising the step of enabling the user to indicate a date for association with a currently selected to do item in the list, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25, 31, and 45, along with figure 6, associating a date with and Area of Concern.

24. With regard to claims 9 and 21, which teach further comprising the step of automatically scheduling the date indicated by the user within a calendar program so that a user is subsequently provided a reminder by the calendar program in regard to the date thus indicated, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 25 and 45, and in figures 1 and 6, a calendar program that provides the user with reminders of events.

25. With regard to claims 10 and 22, which teach further comprising the step of providing a plurality of defined projects, each defined project including a plurality of proposed to do items that are likely relevant to a subject matter of the defined project, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, the concern cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (different projects) and sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user.

26. With regard to claim 11, which teaches a memory medium on which are stored machine instruction for carrying out the steps of Claim 1, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

27. With regard to claim 12, which teaches a memory medium on which are stored machine instruction for carrying out the steps of Claim 2, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 6, a memory medium for storing instructions for implementing the invention.

28. With regard to claim 13, which teaches a system for enabling organizing a project, comprising: a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored (see paragraph 6); a display on which text and graphics are displayed (see paragraph 10 and figures 1 and 5); a user input device that enables input and selection of choices provided on the display (see paragraph 42, claim 1, and figure 5); and a processor coupled to the memory, user input device, and the display (see paragraph 40), said processor executing the plurality of machine instruction to carry out a plurality of functions, including: displaying an integral user environment to a user to enable access of information pertinent to the project from within the integral user environment; creating a list of to do items that are displayed within the integral user environment, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 22-25 and in figure 1, a system for allowing a user to organize a project into a concern cascade, the cascade having a plurality of levels of concerns ranging from primary Areas of Concern (AoC) to sub-Areas of Concern displayed to the user, in order to show a user what still needs to be done (see paragraph 19). With regard to claim 13, further teaching enabling the user to associate an entity with a selected item in the list of to do items; and enabling a user to access said entity that is thus associated with the selected items, from within the integral user environment, Scherr further teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data

bases, presentations, and the like), with select AoC, and further enabling a user to link to associated documents from within the concern cascade.

With regard to claim 13, which further teaches wherein enabling the user to associate the entity comprises: presenting a plurality of categories of entities from which the user can select, within the integral user environment; in response to the user selecting one of the categories, displaying alternative choices of entities from which the user can select for association with a to do item in the list; and in response to one of the plurality of alternative choices being selected, providing an indication that said one of the plurality of alternative choices is associated with the to do item in the list, Scherr teaches associating elements from varying categories (messages, word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, etc.) with concerns in a list of concerns, and providing a visual links to the documents via the UI (see paragraphs 35 and 42), but doesn't specifically teach displaying a plurality of categories of entities for association with items in the list.

Zawadzki teaches a project tracker screen where items are selectively placed in a to do list (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 23 and figure 16), similar to that of Scherr, but further teaches providing a user with groups of categorized items (figure 16) that allow a user to associate and display each item with a project folder (ordered to-do list) (figure 17), where under each category (Tasks, Requisitions, RFQ, Pos) the user is provided with alternative choices of assignable entities ("Hire a Tech Writer", etc.) (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 36 and column 34, lines 1-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings

of Scherr and Zawadzki before him at the time the invention was made to modify the project management system of Scherr to provide for a display of a plurality of categories of linkable elements, as did Zawadzki. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because Scherr describes varying categories of linked documents, where an interface to link by type would be desirable, furthermore this would provide a more organized saving of documents to associated concerns (see Scherr paragraph 42).

29. With regard to claim 15, which teaches the plurality of categories include at least two of: a Web link; a test; and a document, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, linked categories of information including word processing documents, spreadsheets, web pages, data bases, presentations, and the like.

30. With regard to claim 16, which teaches the step of automatically executing a search for relevant alternative choices of entities to display to the user, as a function of the to do item in the list that is currently selected, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt).

31. With regard to claim 17, which teaches further comprising the step of providing alternative choices derived from other programs that are accessible to the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraph 42, the user being able to link any document by saving it to a corresponding concern.

32. With regard to claim 18, which teaches further comprising the step of including a blank entity among the plurality of choices that are displayed the user, Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents, where it would be

obvious to link to blank entities. Zawadzki further teaches, in column 27, lines 54-65, creating a note to add to a project folder. On would be motivated to do so because a blank document is just an empty document (empty word processing document), that would provide a user with a starting point for a document.

Response to Arguments

33. The arguments filed on 3-14-2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Reasons set forth below.

34. The applicants' argue that "the cited portion of Zawadzki fails to teach 'displaying a plurality of categories of entities . . . for association with a to do item in the list'".

35. In response, the examiner respectfully submits that Zawadzki teaches a project tracker screen where items are selectively placed in a to do list (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 23 and figure 16), similar to that of Scherr, but further teaches providing a user with groups of categorized items (figure 16) that allow a user to associate and display each item with a project folder (ordered to-do list) (figure 17), where under each category (Tasks, Requisitions, RFQ, Pos) the user is provided with alternative choices of assignable entities ("Hire a Tech Writer", etc.) (see column 27, line 53 through column 28, line 36 and column 34, lines 1-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Scherr and Zawadzki before him at the time the invention was made to modify the project management system of Scherr to provide for a display of a plurality of categories of linkable elements,

as did Zawadzki. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because Scherr describes varying categories of linked documents, where an interface to link by type would be desirable, furthermore this would provide a more organized saving of documents to associated concerns (see Scherr paragraph 42).

36. The applicants' argue that Scherr does not teach "blank" documents.

37. In response, the examiner respectfully submits that Official Notice has not been taken rather it had been referred to as an obvious feature of the reference. Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 35 and 42, allowing a user to associate documents, where it would be obvious to link to blank entities. Zawadzki further teaches, in column 27, lines 54-65, creating a note to add to a project folder. On would be motivated to do so because a blank document is just an empty document (empty word processing document), that would provide a user with a starting point for a document.

38. The applicants' argue that "Paragraph 42 of Scherr does not teach searching automatically, does not teach a natural word query, and does not teach basing the natural word query on a currently selected item in a to do list.

39. In response, the examiner respectfully submits that Scherr teaches, in paragraphs 36 and 42, a file system search being done to associate entities (messages, web pages, etc.) with concerns (automatically upon receipt), where contents of the file system (search results) are overlaid onto the contents of the concern cascade, and further being savable to a particular concern. Scherr further teaches, in paragraph 42,

the system implementing a "file system search", which obviously could comprise a natural word query, including words of a desired to do item. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because language searching is a frequently used search means, in a file system, that would enable documents with like words to be provided for inspection and further application to the list.

Conclusion

40. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

41. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

42. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

43. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

44. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

5-9-07
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